

term behavior change is difficult to achieve in the best of circumstances. One only has to look at the current obesity epidemic in the U.S. to appreciate the difficulty in learning how to eat healthily. Rachel's success in eating less and healthier and walking daily was due in large part to the relationship that developed between her and her diabetes educator. Rachel now understood the lifestyle changes necessary to achieve success and was able to bring her blood sugar into a safe range. She reported having more energy and was able to cut her insulin dose in half.

Over the years Congress has made strong efforts to improve the care of individuals with diabetes. This includes authorizing the diabetes self-management training, DSMT, as a Medicare benefit in 1997, with the goal of providing a more comprehensive level of support to educate beneficiaries about diabetes and self-management techniques, reduce the known risks and complications of diabetes, and improve overall health outcomes.

However, there is a significant gap in the 1997 DSMT benefit that holds it back from achieving its full potential. Under the DSMT, Medicare covers the critical types of health care services necessary for diabetes control, but does not recognize the health care professionals who deliver those services. Certified diabetes educators are the primary group of health care professionals who work most closely with the patient to provide essential training and education in diabetes self-management. My legislation is designed to address this gap by ensuring that certified diabetes educators are designated providers under Medicare for these vitally important services.

Under the Medicare Diabetes Self-Management Training Act, a certified diabetes educator would be a covered provider of Medicare DSMT services. This health care professional, who is State licensed or registered, is most typically a nurse, dietitian, or pharmacist, who specializes in teaching people with diabetes how to stay healthy and who maintains rigorous certification and continuing education credentials. This bill also increases education and outreach to primary care physicians about the importance of DSMT for their patients with diabetes. I am proud to have introduced this bill along with my colleagues Senators STABENOW, FRANKEN, HAGAN and LANDRIEU.

Diabetes is an incredibly costly disease. It is among the chief contributing causes of adult blindness, lower extremity amputations, heart disease, periodontal disease, kidney disease, vascular disease and infections. There is no cure yet but with the proper tools it can be well managed and complications can be prevented. I believe this bill is an important step along that path. I urge my colleagues to support this important cause.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT MICHAEL K. INGRAM

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life and heroic service of Sergeant Michael K. Ingram, Jr. Sergeant Ingram, a member of the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, CO, died on April 17, 2010. Sergeant Ingram was serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Kandahar, Afghanistan. He was killed by injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated while he was on patrol. He was 23 years old.

A native of Monroe, MI, Sergeant Ingram moved to Fort Carson when he was assigned to the 4th Infantry Division. Sergeant Ingram joined the Army in February 2006, and he was deployed to Afghanistan in May 2009.

During over 4 years of service, Sergeant Ingram distinguished himself through his courage, dedication to duty, and willingness to take on any challenge—no matter how dangerous. Commanders recognized his extraordinary bravery and talent, bestowing on Sergeant Ingram numerous awards and medals, including the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Service Star, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, and the Overseas Service Ribbon.

Sergeant Ingram worked on the front lines of battle, patrolling the most dangerous areas of Kandahar. He is remembered by those who knew him as a consummate professional with an unending commitment to excellence. Family and friends remember him for his smile and his commitment to service. After sustaining a mild injury, Sergeant Ingram was recently offered a chance to come home for surgery. He chose to stay with his unit and finish out his service. He planned on pursuing a career in law enforcement after his time in the Army.

Mark Twain once said, "The fear of death follows from the fear of life. A man who lives fully is prepared to die at any time." Sergeant Ingram's service was in keeping with this sentiment—by selflessly putting country first, he lived life to the fullest. He lived with a sense of the highest honorable purpose.

At substantial personal risk, he braved the chaos of combat zones throughout Afghanistan. And though his fate on the battlefield was uncertain, he pushed forward, protecting America's citizens, her safety, and the freedoms we hold dear. For his service and the lives he touched, Sergeant Ingram will forever be remembered as one of our country's bravest.

To Sergeant Ingram's mother Patricia, his father Michael, and all his friends and family I cannot imagine the sorrow you must be feeling. I hope that, in time, the pain of your loss will be eased by your pride in Michael's service and by your knowledge that his

country will never forget him. We are humbled by his service and his sacrifice.

NATIONAL TEACHERS DAY

Mr. BURRIS. Mr. President, as I am sure many of my colleagues are aware, today is National Teachers Day, and this week is Teacher Appreciation week—an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the enormous contributions made by America's educators at every level.

The work they do—and the impact they have—can hardly be overstated.

Teachers are charged with helping to shape young minds, and providing our students with the tools and inspiration that will lead them to success at every level of our global society.

This work could not be more important. Our educators truly impact eternity.

But, as I address this Chamber today, they face a climate that is increasingly inhospitable to their work, and their goals.

Studies show that today's teachers are more experienced and more educated than ever.

Almost half of all public school teachers hold at least a master's degree, and more than 75 percent regularly participate in professional development programs.

Yet every single year we ask these dedicated professionals to work longer hours for less pay.

And in some cases we even expect them to spend their own hard-earned money to provide school supplies for their students.

This is unacceptable. We can—and we must—do better.

At every stage in my career, I have raised my voice on behalf of America's students and educators.

Today, on National Teachers Day, I urge my colleagues to join me in this call to action.

We need to step up our investment in America's future, and provide our educators with the support they need.

We need to meet competence and dedication with gratitude, fair pay, and adequate classroom resources.

And we need to do so without delay.

Because, if we fail to keep these commitments, if we fail to provide the support our educators need, we will lose quality educators and the invaluable services they provide.

In my home State of Illinois, roughly 9,000 public school teachers have received layoff notices this year.

And as many as 300,000 will lose their jobs nationwide.

This will result in more crowded classrooms, less individual attention for students who need it, reduced access to extracurricular programs, and a school faculty and staff that is increasingly stretched thin.

I invite my colleagues to consider the impact these massive layoffs will have on our students.

I invite them to think of the consequences for America's future.